Catholic Life Policy

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CATHOLIC MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

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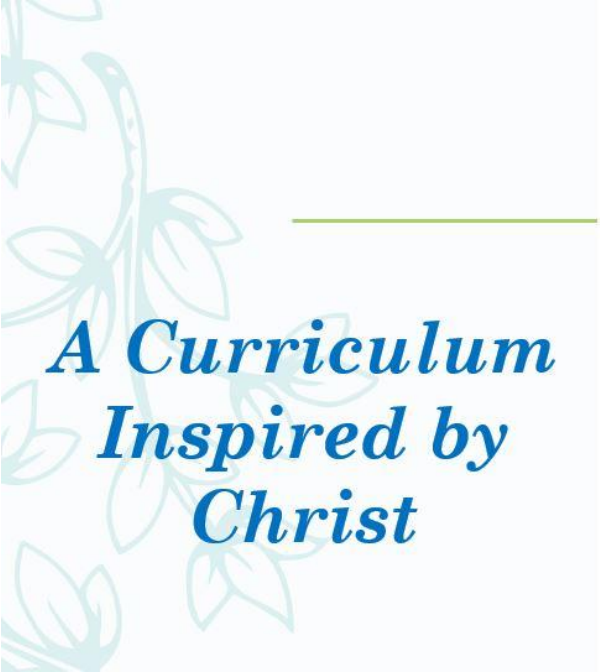
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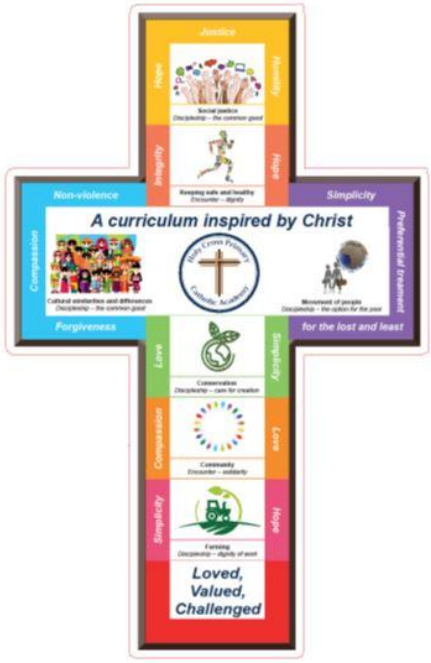
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Our Mission Statement

At Holy Cross, we are very proud of our school motto and our Catholic ethos; **Loved, Valued, Challenged**.

Loved: We love one another as Jesus taught us – our friends, our families and those who we may never meet.

Valued: We value everyone – everyone is important; pupils, staff, parents, governors, and members of the community– no matter their race, religion ability or need. We try to live like Jesus taught us.

Challenged: We challenge each other – not only with our learning but challenge each other to be more merciful to others, have a little more understanding of others' needs and challenge each other to be better people.

Our Vision

At Holy Cross, we aim to develop a caring Catholic community based upon the life and example of Jesus Christ, which envelopes the life and lives of everyone and everything in our school. It is through Christ's message of love and forgiveness that the children, staff, both teachers and ancillary, parents and governors, preserve the essential Catholic ethos of the school.

The school aims to provide a challenging curriculum that reflects our philosophy, broadly balanced and relevant, and to support the development of the whole child to his/her full potential. At Holy Cross, everybody matters, therefore we encourage all to show respect to each other and the environment.

Inclusion Statement

The Governors are committed to `inclusion` in education: this involves minimizing barriers to learning and participation. We believe that each child is unique and has unique needs 'belief in the individual leads Catholic schools to have the duty to care for the poor and to educate those who are socially, academically, physically or emotionally disadvantaged'. *(Catholic Bishops' Conference May 2014.)*

Equal Opportunities

The Governors and Staff at Holy Cross believe that all people are entitled to equal opportunities, respect, and consideration regardless of race, colour, creed, gender, disability or personal circumstances. Therefore, we are opposed to any form of prejudice or discrimination which denies people this equality. This principle applies to both adults and children in our school.

Rationale

In the life and faith of the Catholic School, Religious Education plays a vital and central part. At the heart of Catholic education lies the Christian vision of the human person. This vision is expressed and explored in Religious Education. Therefore, Religious Education is never simply one subject among many, but the foundation of the entire educational process. *'Catholic Schools have a distinctive nature of education' – (Catholic Bishops' Conference, 2014)*

Ethos

At Holy Cross, we believe that all children have the right to develop their potential and our aim is to create a welcoming, caring environment where children feel safe and happy. Staff are committed to their responsibility for children's social and emotional attitudes to learning and managing behaviour appropriately, as laid down in the Professional Standards for Teachers.

Essentially our Ethos is demonstrated by the outward signs and the personal experiences of the teachings of Christ and the Catholic Church in the totality of daily life in our school.

We recognise that for the children to fulfil their potential, the Gospel values need to be explicitly named, defined, modelled and for all pupils to be supported to understand how they relate to their lives both at school, at home and in society. At Holy Cross, this enterprise is not in addition to the quest for academic success and high standards of behaviour but integral to it.

The **Gospel values** are taken from Luke's Gospel and explicitly taught at Holy Cross which include:

- Love
- Compassion
- Forgiveness
- Hope
- Preferential option for the lost and least
- Justice
- Humility
- Integrity
- Simplicity
- Non-violence

Catholic Virtues

Our values will then influence our culture which is created by the actions of our school community. Virtues are positive patterns of behaviour intended to respect God, ourselves and our brothers and sisters. Therefore, our children learn about the Theological and Cardinal virtues and how to develop the positive patterns of behaviour required to live Christian and virtuous lives. The intention is to create a distinctively Catholic place of educational and spiritual development where a virtuous culture is focused on our Gospel values and on Christ being at the centre. We have developed *'Virtues to Love by'* and *'Virtues to Learn by'*, which is taken from the Leeds Diocese *'Virtues to Live by'* resources.

Intent

Holy Cross is a school where all are valued as a child of God, where everyone is enabled to mature towards their full growth in Christ and achieve their potential. Our Curriculum is based on our school Motto of *Loved, Valued, Challenged,* and is rooted in Luke's Gospel values, British Values, Catholic Social Teaching principles, is knowledge rich and ambitious for all our learners. Our new curriculum follows seven themes that allow our children to develop deeper knowledge and understanding of the curriculum themes as they progress through each year group.

At Holy Cross Primary, the intent is to offer a knowledge-rich curriculum which is broad and balanced and ambitious. Our curriculum will build on the knowledge and understanding of all children, whatever their starting points, as they progress through each Key Stage linked to Luke's "Gospel Values" of Compassion, Gentleness, Justice, Integrity, Simplicity, Humility, Preferential option for the lost and least, Love, Forgiveness and Hope and to the principles of Catholic Social Teaching.

The following documents have been used to support the design of the curriculum and to ensure we are delivering a 'Curriculum Inspired by Christ'.

We celebrate and live a catholic life in our school by:

- Valuing our environment – Saint Francis' Eco Warriors, Gardening Club, the health and safety pupils, Laudato Si work, School Council, Prayer and Care Group – maintaining prayer environments.

- Valuing others – Fairtrade Fortnight, Anti Bullying Policy, Children's Behaviour, Children's Playground Charter, Children's Rights Week, school rules, SEND Statement and curriculum policies.

- Valuing our faith – we have regular prayers, Collective Worships (see policy), visit to the parish church and working with the parish.

- Valuing our community – surveying all stakeholders about Catholic Life in our school and what we can do to improve this, our Mission.

- Valuing our achievements – Individual house points (Loved, Challenged, Valued and a Heart which sees), class certificates, achievement and dinner time certificates, end of year awards.

- Challenging others – raising money for charities, including all stakeholders in our mission and Motto.

- Challenging ourselves to think about what Jesus would do and to act how Jesus taught us too.

- Challenging ourselves to be the best we can be – staff, pupils, governors, and parents.

- Loving each other as Jesus taught us (Behaviour/Anti-bullying policy).

All pupils are at the centre of shaping the school's mission and ethos. Pupils contribute in a planned and systematic way to the school's evaluation of its Catholic Life and take a lead in planning improvements to it, pupils are involved in planning Masses, Collective Worships and Academy events.

We encourage all pupils to have a deep experience of belonging and enthusiastically embrace the demands that membership of the community entails. Pupils take a leading role in those activities which promote the school's ethos within school and in the wider community.

We have high expectations of Behaviour and encourage the behaviour of almost all pupils to be exemplary at all times. We follow our Motto 'Loved Challenged Valued' and a Heart which see so pupils are alert to the needs of others and seek justice for all within and beyond the school community. All pupils are expected to follow The Holy Cross Way.

We will encourage all pupils, including those who are not Catholic, to be proud of their own religious identity and beliefs and have a strong sense of personal worth.

Through everyday interactions they will recognise the validity of these feelings in others even when they do not share their convictions. Pupils will be taught to treasure the outward signs of the school's Catholic identity – they will value our environment.

Pupils understand the importance and celebrate key celebrations in school throughout the liturgical year and in the parish community and have some involvement with parish and diocesan activities and celebrations.